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SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
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RETURN TO Angel Island
DIRECT EDITION
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SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

ACTS OF AGGRESSION BETWEEN THE **KINGDOM OF ACORN** AND THE **EGGMAN EMPIRE** HAVE PLUNGED THE ENTIRE PLANET OF **MOBIUS** INTO TURMOIL.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG LEADS THE FIGHT AGAINST THE EVIL **DOCTOR ROBOTNIK** WITH MANY ALLIES BY HIS SIDE. ONE SUCH ALLY, **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA**, WAS ONCE GUARDIAN OF THE MASTER EMERALD UNTIL HE AND HIS TEAM OF **CHAOTIX** LEFT THEIR HOME ON ANGEL ISLAND TO LEND AID TO THE ACORN MONARCHY. WHILE THEY WERE AWAY, ROBOTNIK TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR ABSENCE, SENDING HIS ROBOTIC HORDES TO SUCCESSFULLY CONQUER **ANGEL ISLAND!**

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, KNUCKLES--WHO LOST HIS CHAOS-BASED POWERS AFTER RETURNING FROM THE ECHIDNA AFTERLIFE--HAS REMAINED IN THE KINGDOM OF ACORN, NOT KNOWING THE FATE OF HIS FAMILY AND THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

THE RETURN TO ANGEL ISLAND BEGINS HERE!

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

ACORN

"RETURN TO ANGEL ISLAND: PART 1– THE MESSAGE"

CASTLE ACORN– Morning

KARL BOLLERS – STORY JON GRAY – PENCILS
MICHAEL HIGGINS – LETTERS & INKS
JASON JENSEN – COLORS MIKE PELLERITO – EDITOR
VICTOR GORELICK – MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER – EDITOR IN CHIEF

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND TAKUMA HATORI AT SEGA LICENSING

PRINCESS SALLY, HOW COULD YOU BE SO RECKLESS AS TO DISOBEY MY DIRECT ORDER AND GO ON A SECRET MISSION TO MEGAOPOLIS?!*

MIND YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE, MAXIMILLIAN...

* SEE LAST ISSUE.

Uhh... WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT WAS ALL MY IDEA, KING MAX? THAT I... er... KIDNAPPED HER?

NO!

HOW CAN YOU BE TRUSTED TO RUN AN ENTIRE CITY WHILE QUEEN ALICIA AND I ARE AWAY IF YOU INSIST ON TAKING SUCH RISKS?

I'M SORRY... YOUR HIGHNESS.

BOY, IS YOUR DAD A *GROUCH* OR IS HE A--

I *DON'T* NEED YOU TO FIGHT MY *BATTLES,* SONIC.

I *ONLY* DID IT BECAUSE I *CARE,* SAL.

WELL, *STOP* CARING! OKAY?

?!

WHY KEEP *FOOLING* OURSELVES WHEN WE *KNOW* IT CAN NEVER WORK? I'M A *PRINCESS,* SONIC.

I NEED A *COMPANION* TO RULE BY MY SIDE, NOT SOMEONE WHO'S CONSTANTLY PLAYING *HERO.*

I'M SORRY, BUT YOU *HEARD* WHAT THE KING SAID--I HAVE AN ENTIRE CITY TO RUN. TOO *MUCH* IS AT STAKE. IT'S *OVER* BETWEEN US.

FREDERICK'S AIRBASE— Noon

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE *PRESS*, THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT TO BID QUEEN ALICIA AND I *FAREWELL* ON OUR EXTENDED TOUR OF *MOBIUS*.

SIR CHARLES HEDGE-HOG WILL ACCOMPANY US AS SCIENCE ADVISOR AND *LIEUTENANT ANTOINE D'COULETTE* WILL COMMAND OUR ELITE GUARD.

ACORN ONE

RING GENERAT

MOUNT STORMTOP

COCOA ISLAND!

WILD CANYON

FROG FOREST

STATION SQ MYSTIC RU

BINGO HIGHWAY

SOUTH ISLAND!

HOLLY MOUNTAIN

CLUB ROUGE

MUSIC PLANT

CASINO NIGHT CITY

RESORT ISLAND

PRESS AREA

ABANDON ALL HOPE YE WHO ENTER!

• ACORN-1 •

FAREWELL, *KNOTHOLE CITY!*

WISH US *LUCK!*

ACORN ONE

GOOD LUCK.

Later...

UNC CHUCK

WANTED CRAZY POCKY FOR BEING BAD!

...at UNCLE CHUCK'S DINER

UC

TODAY'S SPECIALS!
- KOOKY COOKIES & PIE!
- DRANO COOKIES
- CHILI DOGS
- CHOCOLATE CHICKENS
- MINT MILK SHAKES
- DEMONIC PEANUTS
- DREWDLE STRUDEL
- YUMMY LNR PUDDING

TRY TODAY'S MISTAKE! ONLY $1.99

SALLY'S BEING *IMPOSSIBLE!* HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO *WIN* THIS WAR AGAINST *ROBOTNIK*...

MENU UNCLE CHUCK'S UC

...IF SHE WANTS ME TO SIT OUT OF THE *ACTION?*

WELL, FOR A LONG TIME AFTER *KNUCKLES* RETURNED FROM THE AFTERLIFE IT WAS *UNSETTLING.*

BUT, *JULIE-SU,* YOU DON'T HAVE A *PROBLEM* WITH KNUCKLES GOING INTO BATTLE THE WAY SALLY DOES WITH *ME,* DO YOU? I MEAN, SURE, HE CAN'T *GLIDE* ANYMORE, HE'S AS WEAK AS A *KITTEN* AND PRETTY MUCH GOOD FOR *NOTHING,* BUT STILL...

!KRASH

?

!

IT'S-- IT'S--

CHARMY BEE--AND SAFFRON?!

H-HELP... US...

WELCOME

SOMEBODY CALL A DOCTOR!

CASTLE ACORN

PRINCE CHARMY...

...NOW THAT YOU'VE RECEIVED MEDICAL *ATTENTION,* CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU AND LADY SAFFRON?

ACORN

WE LOST *EVERY-THING.*

DOCTOR ROBOTNIK SAW TO *THAT* WHEN HE SET HIS BRUTAL EGG PAWNS TO ATTACK *GOLDENHIVE COLONY.*

OUR *HOME.*

WE COULDN'T... FIND ANY OTHER *SURVIVORS* NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRIED. OUR FAMILIES,,, OUR... *NEIGHBORS...*

GONE.

I-I'M SORRY FOR YOUR *LOSS.* EGGMAN WILL *PAY* FOR THIS. I PROMISE.

Er,,, SORRY TO *INTERRUPT,* YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT WE'RE RECEIVING A GARBLED TRANSMISSION ON THE *TECHNOLO-TREE--* WE THINK IT'S FOR HIM!

ME?!

LOCKE SQWWKKK *HELD PRISONER* SQWWKKK *ANGEL ISLAND--*

THAT *DOES* IT! NOBODY PUTS *MY* OLD MAN IN LOCKDOWN! I'M PACKING A *BAG* FOR--

KNUCKLES-- WAIT! IT *COULD* BE A TRAP!

I'M *OUT* OF PATIENCE, SALLY!

IT'S TIME FOR ME 'N' THE *CHAOTIX* TO SAVE MY DAD!

COUNT ME *IN!*

:SIGH: OKAY, BUT THIS *ISN'T* A MISSION TO LIBERATE ANGEL ISLAND FROM ROBOTNIK, MERELY ONE TO *FIND* AND RESCUE YOUR FATHER.

SONIC--

UH-UH! NO *WAY!* DON'T SAY NO BECAUSE I'M *GOING,* THERE'S NO STOPPING ME. IT'S WHO I *AM,* IT'S WHAT I *DO,* NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT AND THAT'S *THAT!*

--I EXPECT A *FULL* REPORT WHEN YOU RETURN!

!

WILL YOU GET A *MOVE* ON?

ANGEL ISLAND—
Night

CHARMY...? ARE YOU SURE ABOUT COMING ALONG WITH US?

IF IT'S A CHANCE TO PAY BACK EGG-MAN--

--YOU BET!

AH DON'T UNDER-STAND WHY AH CAN'T COME ALONG ON THE MISSION WITH Y'ALL, SUGAH-HOG...

COME ON, BUNNIE...

...SALLY NEEDS TO KEEP SOME MUSCLE IN KNOT-HOLE WHILE I'M GONE!

THE MARBLE GARDEN ZONE

LET'S STAND WATCH WHILE TRUE BLUE AND RAD RED BURY THEIR 'CHUTES.

SONIC, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOME HIGH-SPEED RECON--

ZIP!

--AND TELL US WHAT YOU--

FOUND SOME-THING--

POENA INFEROS
PUNISHMENT TO THE INFERIOR

EGGMAN

--AND IT SURE *AIN'T* PRETTY!

AN EGGMAN SPONSORED ECHIDNA PRISONER *CAMP* RUN BY TECHED-OUT *DINGOES!*

YEP! *I* SAY WE "DO IT TO IT!"

DO... WHAT...?

=SIGH=

PIPELINE 2:3

CHARGE!!

COLONEL--!

WHAT IS IT?

YOU'RE UNDER ATTACK, GOOF BALL!

HE'S

STEAL-ING

OUR

WEAPONS-

-GAUNTLETS!

JUST SOFTEN-ING YOU CREEPS UP FOR A CHAOTIX-STYLE WHUPPIN'.

HEY!

OOOF!

WHUD

Uhnnn...

KNOCK IT OFF!

WHERE'S THE CHALLENGE, I ASK?

VICTORY

I COULD'VE HANDLED THOSE DINGOES, Y'KNOW...

YOU'RE WELCOME.

BOINK!

PUNT!

HELP!

HAIL TO THE AVATAR...
FOR HE HAS RETURNED...

HAIL TO THE AVATAR...

!?

OH... MY... GOSH...

REMINGTON?

AVATAR...?

WHY IS EVERY-ONE *CALLING* ME THAT?

BECAUSE IT'S *TRUE!*

"WHEN YOU CAME *BACK* FROM THE AFTERLIFE IN TIME TO HELP DEFEAT THAT *MENACE* FROM OUTER SPACE...*

*SEE ISSUE #125.

"...I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN *IMPOSTOR.*

"IT WASN'T *UNTIL* I VISITED YOUR SHRINE AT *SKY SANCTUARY* WITH MY *ECHIDNA SECURITY TEAM...*

"...THAT I BEGAN TO SEE THE *TRUTH.*

GUARDIAN KNUCK

"BUT, IT WAS TOO *LATE...*

"...THE DINGOES HAD *ALREADY* SOLD US OUT IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR OWN *FREEDOM,* AND ECHIDNAOPOLIS SOON CAME UNDER ATTACK FROM ROBOTNIK'S *INVASION* FORCE.

"I WAS *CAPTURED* AND THROWN INTO A *DUNGEON* WHERE I WAS IMPRISONED FOR *MONTHS* BEFORE I WOUND UP..."

EGGMAN!

SURRENDER!!!!

...HERE. STILL, WE *KNEW* YOU WOULD RETURN TO FREE US, AVATAR! WE HAD *FAITH!*

FAITH IN *WHAT?*

IN THE *PROPHECY OF THE ANCIENT WALKERS,* IT STATES THAT, *"A CHAMPION WILL BYPASS THE AFTER-LIFE AND RETURN HENCE TO DELIVER THE WORLD FROM ITS SUFFERING..."*

REMINGTON...

...I THINK YOU GUYS HAVE GOT THE *WRONG* ECHIDNA.

DINGO CITY (formerly Echidnaopolis)

STRAWBERRY FIELDS

D---: CHAMBER #75: ONLINE

MUSHROOM HILL

D--:: CHAMBER #3 STATUS: ACTIVE

WELL?! HAS THE PRISONER CRACKED?!

LIVE FEED: NEW MEGAPOLIS

Dr. EGGMAN

DARK FORTRESS YOU ARE HERE

D---: CHAMBER #5

ICE CAP ZONE

KULOCK MOVI... CAVERNS

F FEE... CITY

GET BLUE SP...

NOT YET, DR. ROBOT-NIK!

I WANT THAT MASTER EMERALD, GENERAL KAGE!

D--:: CHAMBER PRIME

CHAMBER #25 STATUS: ACTIVE

THAT MEANS I NEED TO KNOW WHERE IT IS! IT HAS TO BE THERE, OTHERWISE ANGEL ISLAND WOULDN'T BE AFLOAT, AND THIS ECHIDNA UPSTART IS THE KEY TO FINDING IT!

LIVE FEED: NEW...

MAKE HIM TALK!

WITH PLEASURE...

DO YOU HEAR THAT, LOCKE? YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A LONG "TALK..."

THE LAVA REEF ZONE

THIS IS *WHERE* THE TECHNOLO-TREE'S TRANSMISSION *ORIGINATED*...

WHY THE HECK WOULD *ANY-BODY* WANT TO SET UP SHOP ON *THIS* SIDE O' THE ISLAND, KNUX?

I'VE GOTCHA, *ESPIO.*

THANKS, *MIGHTY.*

VECTOR, COULDN'T WHOEVER'S *HOLDING* KNUCKLES' DAD PRISONER HAVE PICKED SOMEPLACE LESS, Y'KNOW, *SCARY?*

DON'T SWEAT IT, *RAY,* US CHAOTIX HAVE BEEN IN TOUGHER-- *HEY!*

IS IT JUST *ME?* OR DID SOMEBODY *JUST* CRANK THE SMOKE MACHINE UP TO *ELEVEN?*

VECTOR'S *RIGHT!*

BUT *HOW...?*

LOOK--

--FIGURES *MOVING* IN THE MIST!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE *DARK LEGION*...

...THEN I'M NOT FAST, COOL *OR* GOOD-LOOKING!

JHG!

'04

TO BE CONTINUED!

MOBIUS
25 YEARS LATER

KING SONIC AND HIS FAMILY ARE PAYING ONE OF THEIR INFREQUENT VISITS TO ANGEL ISLAND AT THE INVITATION OF THE GUARDIAN KNUCKLES. UNKNOWN TO THE RECENTLY ARRIVED GUESTS, WHAT WAS ONCE A SIMPLE SOCIAL OCCASION HAS NOW TAKEN ON GREATER IMPORTANCE DUE TO RECENT EVENTS...

MY DINNER WITH SONIC

I SWEAR, JULIE-SU, IF IT WERE UP TO SONIC, OUR TWO FAMILIES WOULD NEVER GET TOGETHER!

HE JUST LOATHES TO TRAVEL ANYMORE THESE DAYS!

KNUCKLES WAS NEVER MUCH OF A SOCIALIZER, EITHER, SALLY!

ALTHOUGH HE DID SURPRISE ME WHEN HE KEPT ASKING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S ARRIVAL!

HE NEVER SEEMED TO CARE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER BEFORE!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

SONIC RARELY TALKS TO ANYONE BEYOND THOSE HE HAS TO DEAL WITH!

HE HASN'T EVEN SPOKEN TO TAILS, GOING ON THREE YEARS NOW!

REALLY?

KEN PENDERS/Writer • STEVEN BUTLER/Penciler • JIM AMASH/Inker
JOHN E. WORKMAN/Letterer • JASON JENSEN/Colorist

OH, YES! WHEN TAILS TOOK OFF TO MOVE DOWNUNDA--

SONIC DIDN'T EVEN SHOW UP AT THE TRANSPORT CENTER TO SAY GOOD-BYE!

DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE SAME HEDGEHOG I'M WATCHING PLAY WITH THE KIDS!

GOT IT!

I GOT IT!

GET IT, LARA-SU! GET IT!

THWAK

NO PROB, SONIA!

THWUMP!

BACK ATCHA, MANIK!

I GOT IT! I GOT IT!

NO, I GOT IT!

THWAP

QUIT BEING SUCH A 'HOG, MANIK!

SPLASH

DAAD!

WHA'CHA GO 'N' *DO THAT* FOR?!

YOU'VE BEEN GETTING IN MY FACE ALL AFTERNOON, SON!

IT SEEMED LIKE THE *ONLY* WAY I'D GET A CRACK AT THE BALL.

SO *THIS* IS WHAT IT'S COME TO, *HUH?*

FROM OVER-THROWING *EVIL DICTATORS* TO DUNKING *HELPLESS CHILDREN!*

CAN IT, MANIK!

WELL, WELL, WELL --SO *LOOK* WHO DECIDED TO POP OUT OF THEIR *CAVE!*

AWWK!

GLUBB!

I DON'T DO *WATER!*

I GUESS YOU ALSO DON'T DO BEING A GOOD *HOST* TO YOUR *GUESTS!*

HELPLESS?!

HEY! JUST *WHO* ARE YOU CALLING *HELPLESS?!*

SAID THE *POT* TO THE *KETTLE!*

BUT I HAD MY *REASONS!*

SUCH AS?

I ACTUALLY HADN'T COUNTED ON THIS BEING ANYTHING MORE THAN THE SAME-OL'-SAME-OL' WHENEVER OUR FAMILIES GET TOGETHER--

--THAT IS, A CHANCE FOR JULIE-SU, SALLY, AND THE KIDS TO SPEND A FEW DAYS RELAXING AND HAVING FUN--

--WHILE WE JUST *BARELY* TOLERATE EACH OTHER!

IT'S *OKAY*, JULIE-SU!

I THOUGHT HE SUMMED IT ALL UP RIGHT ON THE MARK!

SO LET'S GET TO THE *PUNCH-LINE*--

IN A MINUTE!

KNUCKLES! HOW *RUDE!*

YES, ABBY?

SINCE WHEN DID *YOU* BECOME A *GOURMAND?*

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, SIR, BUT WILL *EVERYONE* BE HAVING *CHONO* WITH THEIR *DESSERT?*

JULIE-SU AND I WILL HAVE OUR *USUAL*. THE *QUEEN* TAKES HERS WITH A *MINT TWIST*...

...WHILE THE *KING* PREFERS HIS *STRAIGHT!*

THAT'LL BE ALL, ABBY! THANKS!

"GOURMAND"?

WHERE DID YOU LEARN SUCH A 24-KARAT WORD?

SAME PLACE YOU LEARNED HOW TO ORDER FOR A DINNER PARTY!

NOT QUITE! I HAD JULIE-SU!

ON THE FLIP SIDE, SALLY MUST HAVE HAD HECKUVA A TIME...

...GETTING YOU TO PICK UP YOUR GAME!

I DON'T SEE YOU BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON THROUGH-OUT THE ISLAND!

YEAH, THAT'S 'CAUSE MY CONCERNS ARE MORE GLOBAL!

WHAT A LAUGH! WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE OVERLANDER UPRISING LAST SUMMER?

I WAS BUSY...

...WITH THE DRONE PROBLEM...

...WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THAT MESS!

Y'KNOW, I THINK WE'RE BETTER OFF GOING OUT-SIDE RIGHT NOW, GUYS!

PROMISE ME WE WON'T ARGUE LIKE OUR DADS, LARA-SU!

I WOULD HATE TO LOSE YOU AS A FRIEND.

JUST BECAUSE OUR *DADS* CAN BE SUCH *DORKS* AT TIMES DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO BE THE *SAME!*

YE-AH, BABY!

BUT IF YOU DON'T *REMOVE* YOUR PAW THIS VERY SECOND, MANIK--

--I'M GONNA SLAP YOU SILLY!

IF THE *BOTH* OF YOU DON'T *COOL* IT THIS SECOND, *KNUCKLES*--

-- SALLY AND I WILL *THROTTLE* EACH OF YOU!

YOU'LL *APOLOGIZE* TO OUR GUESTS *NOW*, KNUCKLES, OR *I'LL*--

URP!

UHH, YEAH...

I MEAN-- *SORRY!*

LIKEWISE!

HERE YOU GO, SIR!

YOU *DID* SAY THE *QUEEN* TAKES HERS WITH A *MINT TWIST?*

ARE THOSE WHAT I THINK THEY ARE, ABBY?

CHONO-RAISENBERRY FLAVORED, MA'AM.

IF YOU'RE EVER LOOKING FOR A CHANGE OF SCENERY, ABBY--

--YOU'D BE MORE THAN WELCOME IN THE *KINGDOM!*

TEMPTING OFFER, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT THIS IS *HOME!*

THAT'LL BE ALL, ABBY!

YES, SIR!

WHERE ARE YOUR *MANNERS?*

WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR PLEASANTRIES NOW, HON.

NOT WHILE THE *CLOCK* IS *TICKING!*

YOU TURN INTO A *PUMPKIN* AT *MIDNIGHT?*

I WISH!

YOU KNOW THE *CRAZY WEATHER* WE'VE BEEN HAVING FOR *SOME TIME NOW?*

WHO DOESN'T? I WAS SURPRISED IT CLEARED UP ENOUGH EARLIER SO WE COULD GET IN A SWIM!

WELL, DON'T GET USED TO IT, AS THAT'S PROBABLY THE *LAST* TIME YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE *SUN!*

YOU'RE *CERTIFIABLE,* YOU KNOW THAT?

YOU WON'T THINK SO AFTER I TELL YOU IT WAS *ROTOR* AND *COBAR* WHO DISCOVERED THE *PROBLEM!*

THEY DIDN'T FEEL YOU WOULD *LISTEN* TO WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY, SO THEY CAME TO *ME!*

WELL, *ROTOR* DID!

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK *TEARING APART* THE PLANET.

AS YET, NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THE *CAUSE* OR *EXACT NATURE* OF THESE FORCES, BUT *COBAR* HAS BEEN ABLE TO DETECT PRESSURE BUILDING AT THE *CORE* OF MOBIUS!

TO DATE, I'VE HAD A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE MATTER AND IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO THIS--

--IF WE CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM, NO HARM, NO FOUL!

BUT IF WE *CAN'T*, THAT'LL BE ALL SHE WROTE!

THAT'S IT?!!

IT'S EITHER ONE FROM COLUMN A OR TWO FROM COLUMN B?!!

WHAT ABOUT A *THIRD OPTION?*

ONLY THE *COMBINED* EFFORTS OF BOTH THE *KINGDOM* AND THE *ECHIDNAS*

--CAN MAKE THAT *LIKELY.*

IN CASE WE CAN'T PREVENT THE *PLANET* ITSELF FROM *BLOWING UP--*

--WE NEED A *PLAN* TO *GET EVERY-ONE OFF!*

TO BE CONTINUED